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WESTERN TOKEN LEDGER

DEVOTED TO WESTERN STATES EXONUMIA

TOKEN COLLECTING - MODERN STYLE John Reynolds

DON "ROY ROGERS" FINCH Duane H. Feisel

MASONIC ANNIVERSARY TOKENS Stephen Album

Plus all the usual features.

Published by
WESTERN STATES TOKEN SOCIETY

The WESTERN TOKEN LEDGER is the official publication of the Western States Token Society, an informal, educational, non-profit organization dedicated to stimulating and maintaining interest in the tokens, medals and other exonumia of the Western states.

WESTS was founded in 1971 as the California Token Society, but in the same year the name was changed to the California-Nevada Token Society to reflect the interests of its members. In 1975, the scope of interest was expanded to include all the Western states, and starting in 1977, the name was changed again to its present form—Western States Token Society.

= MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION =

Dues: Dues are $7.50 per year, paid in advance. Members receive the WESTERN TOKEN LEDGER as well as other benefits. Those joining in mid-year receive the back issues for that year. Back issues of the LEDGER, as available, may be obtained from the Assistant Editor for 75¢ per copy, postpaid. Address changes should be reported to the Secretary-Treasurer.

Meetings: WESTS holds two general membership meetings each year—one in the spring (usually in San Francisco) and the other in the fall (usually in Stockton). Additionally, local membership meetings are arranged often by various members. All meetings are publicized in the LEDGER. Interested persons are invited to attend any of the meetings.

= OFFICERS AND STAFF =

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= PUBLICATION INFORMATION =

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Member Ads: Members are entitled to one free six-line advertisement in each issue, but a new ad must be submitted each time. Paid line-ads are $1 per six lines.
Display Advertising: Display advertising rates are $10 full page (4½"X7½" area), $5.50 half page, $3 fourth page, all for camera-ready copy. If copy is to be prepared, the rates are increased by 50%. Original copy for full page can be 5-5/8"X9" maximum for reduction to 80% to achieve final page size.

Articles and ads should be submitted to the editor as far in advance of the copy deadline as possible. Material submitted will not be returned unless requested specifically.

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WESTERN TOKEN LEDGER

AN APOLOGY AND AN EXPLANATION: - If some or all of you are angry at the long delay in receiving your final Ledger for 1979, you are certainly justified in feeling that. Beginning with this issue, we plan to get back on the track, producing each issue of the Ledger at an interval of 6-8 weeks until we have caught up with the current date. For this issue only, we are putting out a double number, representing issues 5 & 6 for 1979. It will be at least half again as thick as a normal issue, so that the members will not be shortchanged by this expediency. We will then put out the 6 issues for 1980 over the next 9 months, and the 1981 issues during the subsequent nine months, thus getting back on proper schedule. All issues will be prepared and sent, and none will be skipped. Normal issues will run either 16 or 20 pages, in conformity with past volumes, and double issues, if produced, will contain at least 28 pages.

While the lapse in publication has been excessive and altogether unjustified, it has happened and cannot be wished away. Surely some manner of explanation is in order, and I shall try to explain what has happened, and how come we have fallen so far behind.

As you know, the procedure for getting out an issue has been as follows: I have processed, edited, and retyped on-hand material, then added some comments and bullroar of my own. Then I have mailed this package to our assistant editor, up to now Duane Feisel, who has added whatever material he has had on hand, plus a few scribblings of his own, prepared the layout, and took the finished product to the printer. Then he stuck on labels and stamps, stapled them shut, and tossed them into the mails. Beginning last fall, Duane's job commitments started to get increasingly burdensome, and for most of 1980, he has been putting in 60 and 70 hour weeks, one after the next. Naturally, this has left him very little time for numismatic endeavors or any sort, the Ledger included. Like many of us, Duane tends to volunteer for more good things than he can handle, so that commitments to local Boy Scout, Little League, and neighborhood groups have taken a big chunk of his time. Duane did not want to give up the assistant editorship, for he has done a superb job and enjoyed doing it. He was able to give the publication a more professional appearance that it lacked when I was the sole editor. But he now knows that he will not have the time to take care of it as well as he would like, and after some persuading, has agreed to let Bill Williges, Jr., be the new assistant editor.

The new arrangement will start off the same, only that I will be putting the entire issue together, as in the past, before

sending it to Bill. For the first couple of issues, I will do the layout, but Bill will eventually do it, as he gets more experience. Up to now, Bill's main experience in this area has been the production of most of his father's price lists, so this will be a new challenge for him. There may be a few "bugs" in the first issue or two under this arrangement, but we shall soon get the matter straight and prompt. Bill's time is not so heavily committed, so that we do not expect to have the same delays in the future, and intend, to the best of our abilities, to stick to our schedule.

Since this is the first Ledger to be sent out in 1980, we must take this occasion to demand, request, urge, extort, and plead that you send in your 1980 dues of $7.50. As is repeated elsewhere in this issue, you are to send that amount to Wm. A. Williges, P.O. Box 172, Orland CA 95963. Please don't delay.

And what will you be getting for the 1980 dues. You will receive the 6 issues of the Ledger, more than 100 pages of news, gossip, articles, blurbs, book reviews, and fillers. These will of course remain somewhat delayed throughout the coming year; 1981 dues will only be solicited when we shall have completed the 1980 volume of this publication. You have already received some minor mailings, and the membership roster. Then there are going to be some fine meetings and swap sessions between now and next March, and you'll be properly informed of them from here on out. So we appeal for your sympathy and understanding, your forgiveness and compassion, and your seven and a half bucks, if not already paid. - SA

ARTICLES AND SHORT NOTICES NEEDED: - With the resumption of regular publication, we shall obviously be needing some things to fill up the issues with. Articles long and short are urgently requested; I have three or four short articles on hand, which will be used in the next issue. In particular, I would like to have short or long articles of some historical interest. You all have particular items that have an interesting story to tell, the story of the issuer, the use of the piece, how you found it, etc. So jot it down, or type it up, and send it to your editor as soon as you can. Since I plan to complete 12 issues in the next 18 months, I will need a LOT of material. There is no need for you to type the material into final form: that is my job as editor. If you have a story to tell, but don't think you can write it down, let me know, I or some other member can listen to your story, take notes or write it down, and prepare it for the Ledger. I want to get the show back on the road, and must request as much cooperation as I can get. - SA

BOOST WESTS: - Don Finch, charter WESTS member no.9, has a timely and useful suggestion. When you run an ad, an article, a letter in some other publication, why not mention WESTS among the organizations you belong to. When you list all those initials on your stationery, just add WESTS to the list. That's free publicity and will get us better known. So please list WESTS amongst the (hopefully long) list of collector organizations to which you belong.

= SECRETARY-TREASURER'S REPORT =
by William A. Williges

BALANCE FORWARD (see Vol. 9 #4)		$506.39
INCOME		
New Members for 1980, 3 @7.50	$22.50	
" " " " , 1 @5.00	5.00	
Renewals for 1980, 1 @7.50	7.50	
Advance orders CALIFORNIA '76	56.00	
Gross Proceeds pf Mail Sale #1*	20.62	
Total Income		111.62
		$ 618.01
EXPENSES		
Ledger - Vol. 9 #4, less advance	(5.94)	
Presidential expenses	6.46	
Advance toward Vol. 9 #5	100.00	
CALIFORNIA '76 funds to Album	56.00	
Total Expenses		156.52
BALANCE ON HAND 11-27-79		$461.49

* Does not include the costs of returning unsold lots and payment checks to the consignors.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

#2 JERRY RAKONCZA, c/o General Delivery, Arnold, CA 95223
#15 JIM RASSMUSSEN - new telephone number 916-334-6331

NEW MEMBERS

#256 A. L. JOHNSTON, 1450 Lincoln Ave. Apt. 2, Burlingame, CA 94010. 415-343-4169. General collector. (Feisel, Williges Jr.)

#257 PHILIP R. BYRNES, JR., 6024 N. 11th Ave., Phoenix, AZ 85013. 602-246-9032. Collects: gambling tokens; AZ tokens; NV tokens; merchant tokens in general (Secretary)

#258 JIM WILLIAMS, 10666 Van Stalen, Rancho Cordova, CA 95670. 916-635-1975. Collects: CA bar tokens; CA tokens in general; merchandise name tokens; NCO club military tokens; world-wode tokens in general (Williges Sr.)

#259 JINKS LIVINGSTON, 510 Douglas St., Bisbee, AZ 85603. 602-432-5506. Collects: early merchant tokens from: Bisbee, Az; small towns in AZ; small towns in Nv; small towns in CA; small towns in the West; old bottles with town name in the inscription (Williges Sr.)

#260 MAX STUDLEY, 6419 Burro Creek Pl., Tucson, AZ 85718. 602-299-9045. Collects: foreign coins & tokens; exonumia books and articles; sales tax tokens; spiel marken & jetons; prison tokens; territorial tokens of AZ; foreign paper currency (Williges Sr.)

#261 JACK BALES, 1214 W. College Ave., Jacksonville, IL 62650. 217-245-4674. Collects: old West brothel tokens--originals and reproductions. (Hartzog)

#262 JOE G. CLEMENTS, P.O. Box 452, Madera, CA 93639. Collects: coins--Canada, USA, world; tokens--CA, USA (Williges Sr.)

DUES ARE DUE: - To emphasize that dues are due and payable for 1980, a separate mailing of dues notices accompanied by a return envelope is being made. Please return your payment as soon as possible to help simplify our record keeping. In case your notice is lost or misplaced, the 1980 dues will remain at $7.50, and should be paid to William Williges, P.O. Box 172, Orland, CA 95963.

Along with the dues renewal notice will be enclosed a copy of our WESTS membership application form. Why not pass it along to a non-member friend who you think might be interested in our organization?

WESTS MAIL BID SALE #1 REPORT: - The total sales on the first WESTS mail bid were $137.55. At the 15% commission rate, the club made $20.62 less the expense of returning unsold lots to the consignors. That expense has not yet been determined as I am right now in the midst of sending out the checks and returns.

The lots for which there was the greatest interest were the California saloon and merchant tokens. The lot selling for the highest price was #30, two tokens from Niles Creek (WA) that sold for $33.00. Lots 23 & 25 tied with the most bids with four on each lot. The prices realized for WESTS Mail Bid Sale #1 were:

1 - 5.00	7 - NB	13 - NB	19 - NB	25 - 19.25
2 - 5.00	8 - NB	14 - NB	20 - 3.07	26 - 24.75
3 - 3.00	9 - NB	15 - 6.50	21 - 5.00	27 - NB
4 - 3.07	10 - NB	16 - NB	22 - 5.00	28 - NB
5 - NB	11 - NB	17 - 1.06	23 - 15.00	29 - NB
6 - NB	12 - 2.78	18 - 3.00	24 - 3.07	30 - 33.00

Please note the number of "No Bid" lots in this sale, but the healthy bids that were placed on better material. For the next sale, we will aim toward a closing date somewhere around the time of our spring semi-annual meeting in San Francisco. Your lots are solicited for that sale.

= TOKEN COLLECTING -- MODERN STYLE =

by John Reynolds

To a purist in token collecting, what I am going to describe may not appeal. However, with the general slowness in token collecting, I decided to canvas my local area for modern tokens.

This effort was stimulated by a visit to a coin collector friend who showed me an interesting piece which may be described as follows:

THE / MAD HATTER / 861 E. FERN / FRESNO /
RAIN CHECK
Pr 31 n/n Good For / One / Beer

Note: For this listing, and those that follow, the lettering on the plastic tokens is white unless otherwise specified.

Two things caught my eye--the interesting name of the beer bar, and the fact that I had never heard of a street named East Fern (which turns out to be a street only two blocks long). So, I decided to see if the bar and its tokens were still around. This simple decision led me into a fascinating day of token hunting in Fresno and the neighboring towns of Clovis and Easton.

In total, I accumulated 24 different tokens from 14 different bars. They turned out to be made of paper, wood and plastic. Five pieces from two different towns are modern "saloon" pieces. With only a small amount of cash and a tank full of gas, you likewise may have an enjoyable day adding to your collection of local pieces.

Let's start at the beginning. My friend told me also about a second piece, known to us already, and which some of us have, from Fresno, for Ray Winn:

RAY WINN / GOOD FOR / ONE / BOTTLE / BEER
Pb 31 n/n (blank)

The important part was that he told me the location of the bar, called "Len's 7 Sons," at the N.W. corner of Fruit and Olive. This is the point where I began my hunt about 11 AM on Monday, August 14.

(Editor's Note: Album catalogues a different token for Winn for a Caruthers location. However, that attribution was never verified, and should now be changed to Fresno. That token is described as follows:

RAY / WINN
Pr 31 n/n Good For / One Draft / Beer

The Fresno location explains why no others of the Winn tokens could be located in Caruthers! John was able to speak with Mr. Winn who told him that both pieces were used in his bar in Fresno, although earlier he had a bar in Caruthers but never used tokens there. --DHF)

There was only one patron at the bar, and a woman bartender. When I showed her my Ray Winn piece, she told me that he had been the owner of the bar about eight or nine years ago, and that she was the second owner since. I asked if she was using any beer chits or rain checks, and she showed me one:

GOOD FOR / LEN'S / ONE BOTTLE / BEER
Pb 37 n/n (blank)(black letters)

She also showed me a second token which was used by a Mr. Potts, the owner between her and Mr. Winn, but which is no longer used since she does not sell wine:

GOOD FOR / LEN'S / ONE WINE
Pr 37 n/n (blank)(black letters)

It seems that she was given a credit to redeem the Len's pieces when she took over the bar from Mr. Potts. It is interesting that the bar is still called "Len's 7 Sons" even though it has changed hands twice since Mr. Winn owned it.

A third token was found at this location:

NEW / HOLLYWOOD / INN / ONE BOTTLE / BEER / DEAN - NADEAN
Pb 37 n/n (blank)(black letters)

All three of the above tokens are similar in style. The bartender and patron gave me the names and locations of four other beer bars that have used beer chits, so the hunt could now be continued.

The first lead was to a beer bar called "The Stables," which turned out now to be a private motorcyle club and not using any kind of tokens. However, the owner remembered seeing such a piece when he took over the place.

The second lead was to the "Woodshed," a restaurant and bar, owned by the same Mr. Potts, the former owner of "Len's 7 Sons." He had used tokens at the "Woodshed," but all were now gone. He remembered the Ray Winn piece, and had purchased and used the two Len's tokens. The first two leads gave me information, but no tokens!

The next lead was more productive. It was the "Kitten Klub," a beer bar and pool room known for its weekly pool contests. Here I obtained a token no longer in use, having been current in the late 60's and early 70's. This piece is known to some collectors:

RAIN CHECK / GOOD FOR / ONE DRAFT BEER / KITTEN KLUB / 708 N. BLACKSTONE / FRESNO, CALIF. / VISIT "MOOSE"
Pr Re n/n (blank)(27 x 52 mm, holed)

The bartender and patrons suggested several other bars using tokens, including my fourth lead. So off I went to "Rose's Cafe and Pool Hall" which is located out in the country, near the town of Easton. It is another pool hall, with pool contests for ladies on Tuesday, for men on Wednesday evening, and for couples on Thursday evening. These contests are a way of drawing in business for the bar and pool hall. At "Rose's Cafe" I talked with the lady bartender and several patrons, including the owner. He gave me a paper ticket now in use:

ONE FREE ONE / ROSE'S CAFE
Fp Re n/n (blank)(50 x 89 mm, black letters)

The owner stated that it was good for one beer. A new lead picked up here sent me to the "Easton-West Saloon" in the nearby town of Easton. Here I picked up two pieces now in use with the word saloon on them:

GOOD FOR / EASTON-WEST / SALOON / ONE DRINK
Pg 37 n/n (blank)(black letters)
Pr 37 n/n (")(" ")

The bartender told me that one was good for a draft beer and the other for a bottle or can of beer. I was in a real modern "saloon" since hard liquor was also being served. The lady bartender told me that she also used a similar token at the "Cowtown Saloon" in Clovis several years ago.

The next stop was at the "Old Fresno Hofbrau," a noted restaurant and bar in downtown Fresno at 2820 E. Tulare St. Here I picked up two more "good for" paper tickets now in use:

OLD FRESNO / HOFBRAU / BEER
Fw Re n/n (blank)(50 x 76 mm, black letters)
OLD FRESNO / HOFBRAU / COCKTAIL
Fg Re n/n (blank)(50 x 76 mm, black letters)

A stop nearby at the Fresno County Library to find the location of East Fern Street, and then on to the "Mad Hatter" bar, which turned out to be padlocked at this time. Neighbors said that it had been closed for the last three or four years, so there was no Mad Hatter tokens from this day's hunt!

Following is a list of 16 additional tokens I found, going from one place to another, in the order in which they were found:

JERRY'S / FRIENDLY / SPOT
Pb 27 n/n (blank)(black letters)
Pg 27 n/n (")(" ")
Pr 27 n/n (")(" ")

(Bar located at 4770 East Belmont Ave., Fresno. The bartender told me the three colors are good for either one large draft, one small draft, or one can or bottle of beer. These tokens are similar in style to the food stamp tokens used in the 60's and 70'.)

GOOD / FOR A DRINK / WHEN YOU GET / A-ROUND TUIT / AT / THE FORESOME CLUB / KINGS CANYON & / CLOVIS RD. / 255-9800
We 38 n/n TUIT

(This is a Fresno, CA, token in current use.)

SKYLINE CLUB (across)
Pg 28 n/n One Drink (across)(black letters)

(This token was used at the Skyline Club bar at 1419 Railroad Ave. in Clovis. Not in use now, but was good for any kind of drink at the bar.)

GOOD FOR / COWTOWN / ONE DRINK
Po 35 n/n (blank)(black letters)

(The location of the Cowtown Saloon is 622 5th St. in downtown Clovis. This token is still being redeemed, but not being issued, and is good for one beer.)

GOOD FOR / ONE DRINK / COWTOWN / SALON (sic)
Pb 41 p/p (blank)(black letters)
Pw 41 p/p (")(" ")

(These two tokens are now in current use; one is good for a draft beer, while the other is for a can or bottle of beer.)

500 / CLUB / CLOVIS, CALIF.
Fu 39 y/y Good For / One / Drink / At Our Bar (gold letters)(poker chip style)

(Located on the SW corner of Clovis and 5th Streets in downtown Clovis. This brick building was the location of an early 1900's establishment called the OK Saloon, Fraler & McKinsey, Props. Besides the bar today, there is also a well-lit card room --local option--where Hi-Low and Pan Poker is played at eight large tables.)

TIME (across)
Fo 39 v/y Good For / One / Drink / At Our Bar (gold letters)(poker chip style)

(In use at Bill's Golden Horseshoe Club, a bar and card room at 532 Clovis Ave., in downtown Clovis where poker is played in a well-lit card room.)

THE OFFICE (INK BOTTLE & QUILL)
Po 41 n/n 6187 N. Blackstone / Fresno, Ca. / 431-5821 / Void When / Live Music (silver letters, bronze color)
Pd 41 n/n (same reverse as above)(black letters, silver color)

(In current use, the first is good for one beer and the second for one cocktail. The lady bartender gave them to me free. A funny thing happened at "The Office" while I was getting these pieces--the bar was full, and rather dark, so I could not see that the tokens were different colors and that they did not say what they were good for. I immediately returned to the bar after I had gotten out into the light, and the lady bartender said, "Don't tell me you want a beer!" I said, "No, just tell me how these are used.")

GOOD FOR / ONE DRINK / ELBOW ROOM / FRESNO
Pe 31 n/n Rain / Check (umbrella)
GOOD FOR / ONE BEER / ELBOW ROOM / FRESNO
Pr 31 n/n Rain / Check (umbrella)

(In current use at both the original "Elbow Room" at 1054 W. Shaw in Fresno and the new "Elbow Room" at 198 W. Shaw in Clovis. Both places are popular local restaurants with bars.)

RAIN CHECK / DUGGAN'S / EAST / FIRST & HEDGES / FRESNO, CA. / GOOD FOR ONE DRINK
We 38 n/1 (stock Indian)

(Originally good for one beer, but now the reverse has a red "X" inked on it signifying that it is good for any drink including a cocktail, whiskey or a beer.)

Several of the bartenders stated that they liked tokens since many were lost and did not have to be redeemed. Also, they are handy for customers who like to roll the dice for drinks. More than one set of these tokens have been reordered, so varieties or different tokens may exist. Some of the tokens were given to me free, but I bought most of them for "face value" of 35¢ to $1 each, depending on what they were good for.

Now it was 7 PM, and eight hours had flown by, as well as one Great Token Hunting Day! If token collecting has slowed down for you, you might consider spending time in your local area seeking out tokens in current use. Who knows, those tokens might be the rarities of tomorrow! Finding tokens is sure to spark interest on your part and, who knows, you might even happen onto something in an old-time rarity.

IN MEMORIAM: The February 20, 1980 issue of Coin World reported the death of Tom Hudson, aged 58, in Long Beach, California. Hudson was never a member of WESTS, but his contribution to the furtherance of exonumia collecting was great. His specialty was wooden money, and published many books on the subject, as well as innumerable articles. His best known work is the Guide Book of Wooden Money, originated in the 1950's by Bill Goffin, and later continues, through seven editions, by Hudson. The efforts of Hudson and others popularized the field of wooden money, and led to the formation of a number of collector organizations for wooden money collectors, including the remarkably successful California Wooden Money Association. Hudson had served as that organization's president in 1979.

AMUSEMENT TOKEN COLLECTORS ASSOCIATION: - Triggered by the release of the new Alpert & Smith catalogue of amusement tokens (see review elsewhere in this issue), a new collectors' organization has been born. Founded by authors Steve Alpert and Ken Smith, the Amusement Token Collectors Association will be an informal organization for collectors and enthusiasts of amusement tokens and the old coin-operated gambling, amusement and vending machines that used those tokens. So far about 25 people have expressed an interest.

At least at the beginning stages ATCA has no dues requirement. All you need to do to obtain membership information is to send a stamped addressed envelope to Ken Smith, 328 Ave. F, Redondo Beach, CA 90277. Formal organization of the group is expected in 1980. - DHF

MT. SHASTA NOTE: When I first obtained a specimen of the Mount Shasta Hotel token (Sis 62-B, = Kappen/Dunsmuir-19), I was assured that it was from the town of Mount Shasta. Even the supposed location of the place was pointed out in that town. For some time I have suspected that the token was from elsewhere, probably Dunsmuir, but possibly Weed or one of the lesser places in the vicinity. When Kappen listed the piece as Dunsmuir, I became even more suspicious. Now I have absolute proof that the hotel was in Dunsmuir, in the form of a cover postmarked 27 July 1902, where not only is the name of the establishment indisputably linked with Dunsmuir, but also the initials J B D on the token are explained as those of the proprietor, J.B. Dougherty.

This points up the need to confirm independently the assurances of old-timers and local residents. This is particularly true nowadays, for anyone old enough to remember the pre-Prohibition saloons is today, at the youngest, in his mid-seventies, and recollections of 60 or more years ago are not always sound, especially about such details as the location of a saloon building at a site that has changed repeatedly since the teens.

Incidentally, this cover was one of a large batch acquired by a San Mateo dealer, all of which were dated either late in 1901 or during 1902. Several others bore the vignettes of other token-issuing firms, but all were of known location, with no new information supplied by the cachet. So we have here another useful tool in pinning down our mavericks, for many of the hotels and saloons had their own printed stationery, and much of this survives in collections of stamped covers.

KOPPENHAVER VICTIM OF BURGLARY: - WESTS member and prominent exonumia dealer Paul L. Koppenhaver recently informed me that his offices were burglarized, and that as a result, a Token and Medal auction slated for June will be postponed until the fall. Here is what Paul has to say:

> "Some of the auction material we were working on was lost in a burglary of our offices on May 22nd. Fortunately we keep our main inventories in the bank vaults so the loss was not as bad as it could have been. Due to this setback, we have decided it best not to try to squeeze in a sale before the A.N.A.. Instead we will schedule a large sale for the Fall after we return from Cincinnati. As always we will have a wide variety of material."

As of the last communication I have had with Paul, none of the material has been recovered.

GOING TO CINCINNATI? - The numismatic big bash of the year, the convention of the American Numismatic Association, will take place this year in the Queen City, Cincinnati OH, from August 18-23, preceded by PNG Day on the 17th. Quite a number of dealers in exonumia will be represented, either on PNG Day,

during the main bourse, or both. Last year's representatives included Cunningham, Hartzog, Koppenhaver, Spangenberger, Lesina, Rossa, Labarre, Elman, as well as many coin dealers who will bring small or large amounts of exonumia. There will be over 300 tables, and it is no meagre effort to make the rounds of all of them. There will be a lot of good material available, though probably not much of Western origin. In any case it is quite an experience, and usually rewarding, both in terms of whom you will meet and what you will find. I plan to be there, seeking out rare Islamic and Indian coins for my business, though I also manage to scrounge up a couple hundred dollars worth of exonumia as well.

On one occasion, at the 1976 ANA in New York, I was put in touch with a part-time dealer from the Buffalo NY area, who was peddling a rather mediocre collection of Ottoman Empire coins, mostly Egyptian in low to very low grades. I bought a few items from him, and after we'd concluded our deal, the fellow asked me if I knew anyone interested in some so-called dollars. I told him I collect myself the California pieces, and he brought out two double-row boxes full of so-called dollars, out of which I purchased the PPIE Tennessee Fund dollar, an unlisted Midwinter Fair piece, and several other lesser items, at a very reasonable price. So one never knows what will turn up next, and where.

BICENTENNIAL CATALOGUE INFORMATION: - The final typing of the pages for California '76, the catalogue of tokens and medals from California relating to the American Revolution Bicentennial has been completed, and now there has to added just a few photographs before the camera-ready copy can be sent off to the printers. Even though the typing was performed on word processing equipment, it still took four hours. Had it been done the regular way, it might have taken four weeks! Even though the manuscript had been checked over by several people several times, during the final typing I was still able to catch a few typos. Still, I think this will be one of the most error-free exonumia catalogues ever produced. I am not sure what the production schedule will be for the printers, but I assume that we will have the books in early 1980.

Paul Cunningham has agreed to do the mailing out of the books, thus saving our organization the cost of shipping the entire order to California. Those wishing to place advance orders should send their orders to William Williges, P.O. Box 172, Orland, CA 95963; the advance publication price is only $5.00. So far, the advance orders from our members has been slow. Please remember, this is a WESTS project, and any excess of receipts over expenses will be used to help finance other reference publications. - DHF

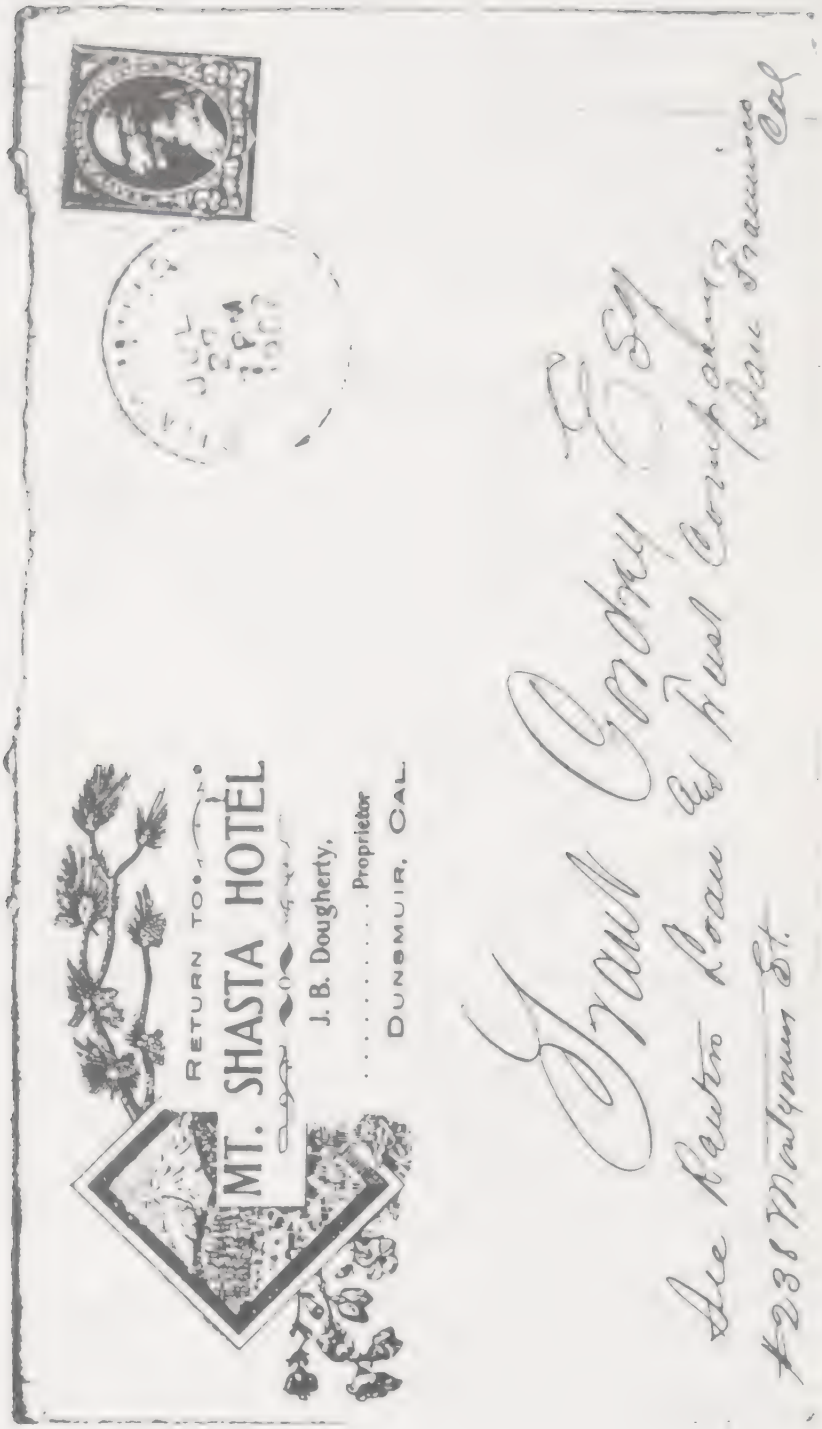
EXTRA! EXTRA!

CALIFORNIA '76: The long-awaited first project of WESTS is now completed, copies are hot off the press, and you can be the first on your block to have a copy of this remarkable elixir for all collecting blues. No nonsens, straight-talkin', tell-it-like-it-is, the only genuine bicentennialana catalog now on the market. Don't be fooled by any look-alike surrogates, get the real thing, the genuine article, and GET IT NOW!

To get your own copy, just send six dollars, check or money order, to the Secretary, Wm. A. Williges, P.O. Box 172, Orland CA 95963.

In all seriousness, we have the copies now, and we must start selling them to recoup our investment. We should be able to sell one hundred copies or more during the next three months. If you haven't ordered one yet, don't just stand there feeling guilty, but get up from your seat and order at once. If you are members of coin clubs or other exonumia organizations, give the book a plug and try to sell some copies. As things stand right now, sales do not look very good, and we must have lots more publicity, and perhaps a little arm-twisting. You shall shortly read all about it in Coin World, Numismatic News, and the rest of the numismatic press.

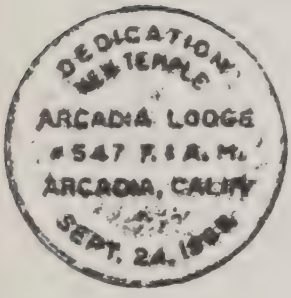
In a few weeks, we shall have worked out a financial statement concerning the book. Estimated costs are $2200 for 1000 copies. By selling these books, we shall be able to finance further publications by our membership, as well as keep our dues from escalating too high.


RETURN TO
MT. SHASTA HOTEL
J. B. Dougherty,
Proprietor
DUNSMUIR, CAL.
Frank Cordry Esq
Sec Renton Loan & Trust Company
#238 Montgomery St.
San Francisco Cal

75TH
ANNIVERSARY
ORGANIZED
OCTOBER, 1899
FRUITVALE CA 1899-1974

LODGE No 24 F.&A.M.
AUG. 14, 1931

SOLANO CHAPTER
CENTENNIAL
R.A.M.
FAIRFIELD, CALIF.


DEDICATION
NEW TEMPLE
ARCADIA LODGE
#547 F.&A.M.
ARCADIA, CALIF.
SEPT. 24,

EUREKA LODGE No 10
F. & A.M.
AUBURN
CALIFORNIA

CHAPTER NO 42, ROYAL ARCH MASONS
CENTENNIAL
1872-1972

CENTENNIAL
1851

ONE
PENNY

= DON "ROY ROGERS" FINCH =
by Duane H. Feisel

While driving down to Anaheim for the regional WESTS meeting in October, I thought it might be nice to have some company for at least part of the trip, so I called Don Finch and arranged to drive the remaining part of the trip with him from Ventura. Not only did Don provide pleasant company during the drive, but after the meeting, he drove my car back to Ventura. It was early evening when we got there, and Don invited me to stay overnight in his spare bedroom.

After a tasty Chinese dinner, Don showed me through some of the material he is now collecting and which we had talked about during the drive to Anaheim and return. I guess what Don now collects shows how one thing can lead to another, and why collecting can be so much fun.

For many years Don has been an avid fan of Roy Rogers, and has gathered ephemera relating to him such as tokens and medals, toys, games, badges, etc. Then he discovered a source of quality color pictures of Roy on the covers of several series of Roy Rogers comic books. So Don began a collection of these comic books, and now he has an almost complete set of the several series.

Not content with just having the comic books, Don has read all of them. His reading has been of a serious nature, however, and he has undertaken a thorough analysis of the stories presented. His card catalogue carries references to all of the characters in the comics, what they did, the various weapons used by Roy, the different things Roy has shot at, etc. Don told me about some of the things he has found, and they are really quite interesting and entertaining. He is also analyzing the art work, and the cover photos. Don has long range plans to present all of this work in a book sometime in the future.

I learned that there is a Roy Rogers museum, now operated by Roy Rogers himself, in the Victorville area, and that Roy will often be in the museum to meet and talk with those there. Roy also attends some of the gatherings of collectors of movie nostalgia, and Don has met him there.

Don collects <u>everything</u> to do with Roy Rogers, so if you run across anything related to that cowboy movie star of the 40's and 50's, you might want to get in touch with Don.

Collectors being what they are, I bet there are similar stories for most of us.

MASONIC ANNIVERSARY TOKENS

Stephen Album

While Masonic pennies, also known as chapter pennies or mark pennies, have been avidly collected for decades, there is another, less collected and less publicized sort of Masonic exomunia. I refer to the anniversary and souvenir issues, which may commemorate the anniversary of a lodge, the dedication of a new lodge building or temple, or the inauguration of a new master. These pieces are generally quite rare, as typical mintages are only 100-400 pieces. Moreover, they do not often find their way into numismatic channels, and are thus hard to obtain.

Most of the pieces are issued by local lodges of lower degree Masons, identified by lodge number and the initials F. & A.M. (Free and Accepted Masons). A smaller number of pieces come from the Royal Arch Masons, orders of masons who have attained a higher degree according to the York Rite, and are identified by chapter number and the initials R.A.M. These latter pieces may also have served as chapter pennies.

The following list comprises 18 pieces in my personal collection, and is not intended to be a complete list, not even of the pieces I have.

1. Anaheim, F. & A.M. Lodge #207, golden bronze, 35 mm., round.

   Obv: ANAHEIM / LODGE NO. 207 / F. & A.M. / CENTENNIAL / INSTALLATION / 1870-1970 / JANUARY 10TH, 1970

   Rev: Various Masonic symbols.

2. Arcadia, F. & A.M. #547, antiqued bronze, 32 mm., round.

   Obv: DEDICATION / NEW TEMPLE / ARCADIA LODGE / # 547 F. & A.M. / ARCADIA, CALIF. / SEPT. 24, 1965

   Rev: (same as #1)

3. Auburn, F. & A.M. #16, dark bronze, 30½ mm., round.

   Obv: EUREKA LODGE No. 16 / F. & A.M. / AUBURN / CALIFORNIA

   Rev: CENTENNIAL / 1851 * 1951 Compass & right angle, with letter G in center.

4. Chico, R.A.M. #42, red bronze, 32 mm., round.

   Obv: CHICO CHAPTER NO. 42, ROYAL ARCH MASONS / CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION / 1871-1971

   Rev: ONE / PENNY Keystone & Masonic symbols.

5. Concord, R.A.M. #31, nickel-silver, 32 mm., round.

   Obv: ANCIENT CHAPTER NO. 31, R.A.M. / CHARTERED / ONE / PENNY / MAY 9, A.I. 2392 / CONCORD, CALIF.

Rev: 1862 / 1961 Keystone & Masonic symbols, as on #4.

(the Masonic calendar dates from BC 531, but I don't know why, and don't know the system of reckoning)

6. Fairfield, S.C.A.M. #43, antiqued silverplate, 35 mm., irregular shape.

Obv: SOLANO CHAPTER / CENTENNIAL / NO. 43 / R.A.M. / APR. 10, 1872-1972 / FAIRFIELD, CALIF.

Rev: Shekel design.

(The Shekel design, shown on these pieces and on many Chapter pennies, derives from the Year 2 shekel, a silver coin struck during the First Revolt of the Jews against Rome; for an illustration of the coin, see Meshorer, Jewish Coins of the Second Temple Period, no. 151) The coin was struck in AD 67.

7. Fruitvale, F. & A.M. #336, antiqued nickel-silver, 34 mm., round.

Obv: FRUITVALE LODGE NO. 336 F & A M / 75TH / ANNIVERSARY / ORGANIZED / OCTOBER, 1899 / FRUITVALE CA. 1899-1974

Rev: (as #1)

8. Los Angeles, F. & A.M. #520, golden bronze, 35 mm., round.

Obv: IONIC LODGE NO. 520 F & A M / 50TH / ANNIVERSARY / 1972/ FRANK D. ROSEN W.M. / EDGAR L. FRIEDMAN S.W. / MELVIN BAER J.W. / LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

Rev: GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY / 1922 1972 / IONIC LODGE NO. 520 F & A M

9. Los Angeles, F. & A.M. #202, golden bronze, 35 mm., round.

Obv: CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY / PENTALPHA / LODGE #202 / F. & A.M. / LOS ANGELES, CALIF. / 1869-1969

Rev: (as #1)

10. El Centro & Niland, R.A.M. 109, bronze, 32 mm., round

Obv: EL CENTRO CHAPTER NO. 109, R.A.M. / HARRY R. SONES CLASS 1959 / HARRY R. / SONES / G.H.P. / 1959-1960 / MARKMASTER NILAND OCTOBER 31 / EL CENTRO, CALIF.

Rev: Keystone & Masonic symbols.

11. Mariposa, F. & A.M. #24, copper-nickel, 27 mm., round.

Obv: MARIPOSA LODGE No. 24, F. & A.M. / AUG. 14, 1937 / G (Right angle & compass)

Rev: SENTINEL DOME / ELEVATION 8117 FT. / YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK, CALIF. (mountain scene with tree)

(to be continued)

= REGIONAL WESTS MEETING IN ANAHEIM =
by Duane H. Feisel

For the first time WESTS has conducted a successful regional meeting in Southern California. Several years ago a meeting was attempted, but it never came off due to the lack of a local coordinator. This year we prevailed upon Bob Marvin to handle arrangements, and he did a great job in setting up a meeting time and place during the CSNA show at the Sheraton Anaheim Hotel in Anaheim, California.

Quite a number of WESTS members were at the show, and many of them stayed on until late Saturday afternoon for the meeting. WESTS members in attendance were Frank Strazzarino, O.L. Wallis, Duane H. Feisel, Dan Jacobson, Steve Alpert, Elain Willahan, Merlin R. Null, Jack Donnelly, Jere Runciman, Larry Elman, Vince Beretta, Charles V. Kappen, Don Finch, Bob Marvin and Frank Earl. In addition, there were at least eight visitors to the meeting. Another six or eight WESTS members were seen at the show, but they did not attend the meeting.

During the brief business meeting, it was decided among those present that another similar meeting will be held in 1980 when the CSNA fall show will be in San Diego. Bob Marvin agreed to coordinate meeting arrangements again.

Frank Earl spoke to the group about his new catalogue of security telephone tokens, while Steve Alpert spoke a few words about the new catalogue of US and Canadian amusement tokens by himself and Ken Smith, plus his new listing of large lucky penny type pieces. Finally, Duane Feisel gave an up to date report on the progress in completing the WESTS-sponsored catalogue of tokens and medals from California relating to the US Bicentennial. Charlie Kappen mentioned that he continues to gather listings of tokens for a future supplement to his catalogue of California trade tokens and related items.

One of the attractions for the Anaheim meeting was to be the auction of Joel Malter and Co. which included a number of California trade tokens. Unfortunately, the auctioneer failed to present the material in the way it was indicated that it would be done. Rather than lots containing individual tokens, or groups of related tokens, the material was offered in a single lot of almost 500 pieces which included a mishmash of California trade tokens and medals, medals from out of state, and a batch of Hickey Brothers tokens. There was a relatively small number of desirable tokens and

result in the lot conglomerated with a much greater number of relatively common pieces, or items of little collecting interest. The net result was that there was little active bidding on the lot. Because of the nature of the lot, a small group of collectors agreed to act together in bidding; the agreement was to split the cost of the lot, with each obtaining specific items of interest plus a division of the remaining material. This group carried the bidding to $705 at which point the lot was awarded to a mail bidder. However, I understand that that bidder was on the floor and was prepared to go substantially higher for the lot.

The show itseld was a disappointment as far as obtaining tokens was concerned. But isn't that the story of most coin shows these days. Outside of one token bought on the floor, all my new acquisitions came from other collectors. And that is one of the major values of our regional meetings--the chance to meet and deal with fellow collectors.

The attendance at the meeting and the enthusiasm demonstrated was an encouraging sign that future meetings in the southern part of the state can be quite successful. I also learned that the California Association of Token Collectors, once an organization devoted primarily to transportation tokens and related areas, has expanded their horizons to include all types of tokens. That group meets every two months in the Los Angeles area, and among its members are many WESTS members. And that explains why there has been a lack of regional WESTS meetings down south. Those of you residing in the Los Angeles area wanting to be able to get together with fellow collectors should explore the benefits from membership in CATC. We will try to present membership and meeting information in a future issue.

UPDATE ON McDONALD'S WOODEN NICKELS: - I had prepared a checklist of the known issue on the McDonald's wooden nickel series, but there are some major developments occurring which have caused me to postpone that information. A totally new reverse is being placed into use. It carries wording to restrict the redemption of tokens to only one token per purchase. Apparently there was a problem of patrons trying to redeem several tokens with a single 50¢ purchase. So far that reverse is known for issues from one location in Sacramento, and another in Santa Cruz. Some of the locations have placed a rubber-stamped message restrcting the redemption to a single token per purchase. Also, a couple of new locations have been reported from Napa, and more information is being obtained about those issues. - DHF

TIMLINESS OF ISSUES: - While there is an attempt to get out issues of the Ledger on time or as close to it as possible, it is no secret that it has not been possible to adhere to the announced schedule. Since we "catch some heat" on this from time to time, I want to say a few words on the subject again.

First off, please consider that the work involved in putting out each issue is done by people who volunteer their time at no cost to the Society. It is understandable then that there may be other more pressing matters to be considered by those involved than just doing the Ledger. And just who is involved in producing an issue.

First off, there is the editor Steve Album and the assistant editor Duane Feisel. Each issue also contains a report from the secretary-treasurer Bill Williges. Then there are those members who contribute articles, news information, books for review, and who submit ads. This involves in the end quite a number of people, and a coordination of effort. Not always does one person's schedule match that of anothers, and this is one of the main factors in a delayed publication.

Finally, not many people appreciate the time that goes into preparing just one issue. As a minimum, getting the material ready for the printer and then getting it ready for mailing takes 20 hours of work. Often that 20 hours is hard to come by. The printer's schedule can introduce a delay, but that is usually not more than a few days, although it can be as much as a week.

Another factor relates to the timing of our meetings and how that fits the publication schedule. For example, I probably could have had this issue ready to go by the end of October. However, our general membership meeting was scheduled for November 3, and it was expected that that meeting would produce news of value to the Society. Thus, a decision was made to hold up production of this issue until after that date so that any news could be brought to you in timely fashion.

These are the facts of life. What can be done to improve the situation? Probably not very much unless it would be for each and every member to resolve to submit material for publication. The burden of providing material often falls on the shoulders of just a few people who are involved with the actual production, thus exacerbating the problem. - DHF

= STOCKTON MEETING REPORT =
by Duane H. Feisel

Once again the fall general membership meeting of the Western States Token Society was held in conjunction with the coin show of the Delta Coin Club in Stockton, California. WESTS had its beginnings at the Delta Coin Club show in 1970, leading to the founding of the organization in January 1971. Due to the limited space available at the site of the coin show, the WESTS meeting was held at a nearby location, West Lane Bowl. A well-lighted room with plenty of tables and chairs was available from 11 AM to 5 PM. Members arrived early to begin the days activities, mainly buying, selling, trading and talking tokens.

In attendance were Vince Beretta, Ron Lerch, Will Posthumus, Ralph Lea, Frank Earl, Dan Jacobson, Jim Williams, Jim Rasmussen, J.L. McPheeters, Wm. A. Williges, Sr., Bud Carmichael and Duane Feisel. In addition, three guests attended the afternoon section of the meeting.

At about 12:30 PM, the group adjourned to the dining room to enjoy a dutch-treat lunch. The food at West Lane Bowl is superb, and all came away from the table with more than enough to eat and favorable comments on what they had ordered.

The business section of the meeting began right away, and a number of topics were covered. First off, there being no opposition and the current officers willing to serve another term in office, they were elected for 1980 by unanimous vote. Therefore, Duane H. Feisel will serve as president, William Williges Jr. as secretary-treasurer, Stephen Album as "Ledger" editor, and Don Finch as curator.

A report on the regional WESTS meeting the weekend before in Anaheim was given by those who had attended. The large attendance at that meeting was noted, and in a vote of confidence for future meetings in southern California, there was a favorable vote to hold the next fall semi-annual WESTS membership meeting in conjunction with the CSNA show in San Diego. The meeting in Stockton in November will be continued as a regional meeting.

In a related move, the group voted to take out club membership in the California State Numismatic Association. CSNA has been most cooperative with WESTS in providing meeting space at their conventions, in providing publicity for our meetings, and for encouraging us to meet with them. Several of those

attending indicated they planned to take out individual memberships in CSNA as well.

Comments were made relative to the mail bid sales being conducted by WESTS, and encouaging bidding as well as submission of lots for future sales. Reports were given on the various cataloquing efforts of WESTS members.

The matter of WESTS taking a position on moral issues involving members of the organization was the next item on the agenda. A report was given on the written and telephoned response from among the members as a result of the solicitation made in the April 1979 issue of the "Ledger." After considerable discussion, a consensus of the group was that each case should be considered by itself as it arises. To that end, it was voted that the officers of WESTS formulate a policy and procedure to cover such situations, that this policy and procedure be published in the "Ledger," and that the matter be voted upon at the spring semi-annual membership meeting in San Francisco in April.

The business portion of the meeting concluded with a talk by Frank Earl on security telephone tokens. Frank passed around examples of the various types of security tokens for the edification of the audience. After his presentation, Frank entertained questions from the fllor of which there were a number. See elsewhere in this issue for a review of Earl's new catalogue on this specialty exonumia field.

Finally, more token actvity before the members began drifting away for the trip home. By 4:30 PM, I was the remaining person there. It was a full day of token activity and conviviality. Like most good token meetings, this one seemed like the best yet.

CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF TOKEN COLLECTORS: - A sister exonumia organization, centered in the Los Angeles area, caters to the needs of collectors in the southern part of the state although the organization has members from all parts of the country. CATC holds meetings the third Sunday of each odd-numbered month. They also publish a two-page newsletter--short but newsy. Dues are only $2.00 per year, and you can join by sending that amount to the CATC secretary, Elaine Willahan, 516 W. 99th St., Los Angeles, CA 90044.

While CATC was originally organized primarily for collectors of transportation and related tokens, the group now encompasses all aspects of token collecting. Many WESTS members belong to that club, and attend the regular meetings. - DHF

FOOD STAMP CHANGE NEWSLETTER? - WESTS member Jerry F. Schimmel reports on an important new undertaking. Here is his initial release:

> "Collectors who may be interested in a newsletter or corresponding club on Food Stamp Change Tokens and Paper Scrip should send a stamped, self-addressed envelope and a 25-word ad [illegible] to Jerry Schimmel, P.O. Box 40888, San Francisco CA 94140. In late March or early April 1980 he will mail out a free trial newsletter and a sample token to those who write. Collectors should also feel free to send questions, information, clippings, mavericks to be identified (food stamp only, please!), or interesting samples to be Xeroxed. The newsletter is projected to be published at least three times a year. Collectors should not send any money at the present time until the level of collector interest is determined.
>
> "Food Stamp Change is presently prohibited unless it is given in U.S. Currency according to a regulation made in late 1978. Tokens and scrip have been issued in all states and territories, including the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, where a wide range of tokens have been used. The collecting of government-issued Food Stamps is prohibited under Federal Law, but the collecting of privately-issued tokens and scrip is completely legal. Food Stamp items were issued primarily by small merchants in local communities, although large retail food chains used items in stores serving a number of geographical areas. Tokens and scrip were given for change under $1.00 and came in denominations of 1¢, 5¢, 10¢, 25¢, and 50¢. Metal, plastic, and paper were the most common materials used."

Since the initial communication reproduced above, Jerry has published two issues of the newsletter, and has established a subscription fee of $3.85 for 1980-81. You may now send a check for that amount to Jerry (made out to him) to the address above. The first issue features an article on the standard reverses used on tokens manufactured by Plasco of La Crosse WI, a maverick listing, and about 25 subscribers' ads. Unfortunately I do not have details on the contents of the second issue, as I am not myself a subscriber. But for those with even a passive interest in the food stamp change tokens or scrip, subscription to this newsletter is essential.

FIRST FOOD STAMP BOOK !! Jerry has really been busy, and has now produced a 101-page listing of food stamp token users, entitled Food Stamp Change Token Stores. Several thousand users are enumerated, including 311 in California, and the California listing fills just 6½ our of the 100 pages of listings. As the author indicates, this is not a catalog of all known token and/or scrip varieties, just a list of stores known to have used them, and as such, is particularly useful for locating tokens, and as a checklist. Only those stores which used tokens are included; some may also have used scrip, but those known only to have utilized paper scrip are omitted.

The book was reproduced in a limited edition, and is currently available for about $7 (plus postage, I guess), from Jerry F. Schimmel, P.O. Box 40888, San Francisco CA 94140. I believe less than 100 copies were printed, so it would be best to get a copy at once, if you are interested. - SA

=== WESTS MEETING: WHEATLAND, CA. ===

A regional meeting of WESTS was held on 27 January 1980 at the home of Bill & Gladys Williges, in Wheatland, California. The meeting ran as usual from about noon until after five, helped along by a copious buffet provided by Gladys Williges, and smoothed along by lots of coffee and wine.

In attendance were Bill & Gladys Williges, William Williges, Frank Earl, Vincent Beretta, Dan Jacobson, Jim Rasmussen, Jim Williams, Cecil Wright, Duane Feisel, Steve Album, and Mr. & Mrs. Charles Guzzo. There was plenty of the usual swapping, buying & selling of tokens, and the telling of story after story.

There was no business meeting, and no important decisions regarding WESTS affairs were taken at that meeting. About the only news item was Paul Cunningham's kind offer to help us out by drop-shipping copies of the Bicentennial catalog, California '76. Orders for that catalog should continue to be sent to William Williges, P.O. Box 172, Orland CA 95963.

BOOK REVIEW:

H.E. Salley, History of California Post Offices 1849-1976, La Mesa, California, Postal History Associates, Inc., 4008 Violet St., La Mesa CA 92041, 1977 ($8\frac{1}{2}$x11 format, 302 + vi pages, clothbound, limited edition of 500 copies).

This is the first major compilation of California postal history to appear since Walter Frickstad's important work in 1954. It substantially amplifies the earlier work, correcting many of Frickstad's errors, and filling in much data that Frickstad was not then able to utilize.

Most of the 300 pages comprise an alphabetical listing of 5597 post offices that have operated at one time or another in California. Each listing includes the following information: (1) name of the post office, (2) class, (3) county, (4) date of establishment and if no longer current, date of discontinuance, (5) record of moves, spelling changes, etc., (6) origin of the name, when known, (7) exact location, as described in Post Office documents, and (8) name of first postmaster or postmistress. Variant spellings, and some additional historical notes are also supplied. The listings are cross-indexed by county on pp. 249-277. Other postal information is contained in four additional appendices on pp. 278-299, not of especial interest to token collectors.

How does this information benefit token collectors? Here is an example, the locality of Woodward, home of a single token, issued appropriately by F.Y. Woodward (Alb.Cus/Sjq 30-A, Kappen/Woodward 1). We learn that the post office was established 5/27/1901 in San Joaquin County, 10 miles NE of Byron, 17 miles west of Stockton. on 3/15/1913, it was moved three miles east, then discontinued on 12/4/1913, when its name was changed to Orwood. It had been named for Orville Y. Woodard (sic), first postmaster. The same Woodward who issued the token.

Another useful example is Midland. I have listed token from that location, which I assigned to Kern Co. (Ker 59 A), issued by the Holmes Supply Co. for 5¢ in trade. Kappen listed the same piece, assigning it to Riverside County (Midland 1). Salley lists two post offices by the name Midland, one in Riverside County between 1927 and 1967, associated with a plant there owned by U.S. Gypsum, who owned the entire town. The other was in Kern Co., was an oil discovery site in the 1890's, and had its post office from 1908 until 1914, located 13 miles NW of McKittrick. Now in the 1915 Dun's directory, Holmes Supply Co. was listed (general store and contractors) in Los Angeles, with a branch in Bakersfield; it was similarly listed in the 1957 directory, but it no longer in Los Angeles under that name. The term "Supply Company" usually refers to a merchant in oil well and drilling supplies, and such oil towns as Taft and Bakersfield are to this day filled with companies calling themselves XXX Supply Co. Now the token, by style, seems a prodcut of about 1910-25, and was made by L.A. Rubber Stamp Co. It was found together with other tokens from Fellows, and Salley indeed tells us that after its discontinuance, mail was sent to Fellows. Thus, although I have never seen a directory listing of any sort for Midland in Kern County, I am now quite confident that the token was from Kern, not Riverside Co.

(Footnote: In my listing, I located Midland 2 miles south of Fellows, which would correspond to the present site of Midoil, where there stood until recently the decaying remains of a general store/gas station type of structure. now, to the best of my recollection, vanished. Salley places it 13 miles NW of McKittrick, which coincides approximately with either the Cymbric or Chico-Martinez Oil Field. However, the origin of the name is that the site was a midway location between the Carrizo plain and the San Joaquin Valley, which seems a little strange for that site. Moreover, if that were indeed the location, why, upon its discontinuance, would mail have been sent all the way to Fellows, and not to McKittrick, which was not only 10 miles closer to the supposed location, but was on any route that would have led to Fellows. So the matter is not entirely settled, and still more research is needed!)

Personally, I feel the book is a necessity for any serious collector of California history, tokens, medals, etc., and well worth the $35 price tag. Copies should still be available, and may be ordered from the address above.

ANONYMOUS WRITERS: - One of our sister exonumia publications, the "Civil War Copperhead", has as a regular feature a column signed with the name "Horatio." In this column are presented thoughts which are often controversial, or pointed toward an individual or group. Recently "Trade Token Topics" carried a similar article with the anonymous signature of " " on the topic of mail bid exonumia sales.

Member Paul Cunningham, in the "Comments" section of his recent auction and mail bid sale catalogue has taken to task these faceless authors. I would have to agree with Paul that if a person has something to say, he or she should be willing to attach a his or her name to those comments. - DHF

V&TRR TOKENS IN SILVER: - The long-awaited .999 fine silver, one troy ounce, version of the Virginia & Truckee Railroad, Virginia City, Nevada, tokens have finally been received from the manufacturer. And they are gorgeous! By the time you receive this issue, those of you who ordered specimens of the token should have received your order. Accompanying is a train schedule for the railroad, and a color picture postcard of the engine as shown on the token.

As mentioned in the last issue, the token maker delayed ordering the silver for the tokens, and in the meanwhile the price of silver increased by over $6.00 an ounce. Since the pieces had been offered at a fixed price established some time before the dramatic price increase in silver, the net result is that the total cost for each piece, including the mailing, produced a net loss for the issuer!

To help make up for the problems caused by the delay in ordering the silver, the token makers took it upon themselves to send at no extra cost a small quantity of the bronze token provided with an antiqued finish. The result is stunning. Those who purchased the silver pieces will be allowed to order an equivalent number of the antiqued bronze pieces at $5.00 each. If all of the silver buyers do not exercise their option to obtain the antiqued bronze, then perhaps a few of these new items will be available to others. - DHF

REGIONAL MEETING

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 1980, in SACRAMENTO: See inside back cover for details!

CALIFORNIA '76--a listing of the tokens and medals issued in California for the American Revolution Bicentennial. This is a WESTS project! Advance price for this 160 page card cover, profusely illustrated, catalogue is $5.00. Buy an extra copy for your local library. Send your order, checks made out to WESTS, to:
Wm. Williges P.O. Box 172 Orland, CA 95963

FOR SALE: COLORADO token books. Hardcover $15.50, loose-leaf $9.00, postpaid, sent to street address. Need Colorado and New Mexico tokens.
Lee Nott Box 3130 Fairview Heights, IL 62208

I WOULD LIKE TO BUY California merchant tokens that I need for my collection. High prices paid. I am still paying a minimum of $7.50 for any old Marysville or Orland tokens that I don't have. Send SASE for my new personal token.
Bill Williges P.O. Box 172 Orland, CA 95963

WILLIGES HAS PAID cash for 21,992 (as of 10-22-79) tokens and medals this year. Many more collections and accumulations needed.
Bill Williges Box 445 Wheatland, CA 95692

MODERN TOKENS from California for sale. Send 28¢ in stamps to cover mailing costs of a nine-page listing of hundreds of tokens. Probably the most comprehensive listing of California tokens ever offered for sale..
Duane H. Feisel P.O. Box 1302 Los Altos, CA 94022

TWO NEW EXONUMIA BOOKS now available: "Amusement Tokens of the United States and Canada," $24.95, and "Large Lucky Soiuvenir Coins," $5.00, both postpaid, (California residents add sales tax) from author:
Stephen P. Alpert P.O. Box 66331 Los Angeles, CA 90066

Members are allowed a free six-line ad in each issue. A different ad must be submitted each time. Please put vour ad on a separate piece of paper, and do not include it as part of a letter. Please submit it as far as possible in advance of the publication deadline. Next issue deadline is January 1.

Calendar of Coming Events

September 6, 1980: - Saturday. Regional Meeting, Sacramento, California. The meeting will begin at noon, and will be held at the Recreation Room of the Mobile-Americana Mobile Home Park, at 600 Greenback Lane. To get there, take I-80 to the Greenback Lane exit, then go south about half a mile; the place is on the right. There is a swimming pool available. Sponsor: Vince Beretta. Those who attended last year will remember that this was a very pleasant place to hold a meeting.

October 10-12, 1980 - San Diego CA. California State Numismatic Association, 67th Convention. At the Bahia Hotel, 998 West Mission Bay Drive, in San Diego. This is an important three-day coin show, and we shall try to have a WESTS meeting on Saturday, 11 October. Full details in next Ledger.

mid-November 1980 (exact date to be announced in next issue), Stockton, CA. Tenth annual founders' meeting, in conjunction with the Delta Coin Club coin show in Stockton. This meeting will mark the tenth anniversary of the founding of WESTS, and it is also the regular semi-annual general membership meeting. Please try to attend. Full details to come.

WESTERN STATES TOKEN SOCIETY
Duane H. Feisel
P. O. Box 1302
Los Altos, CA 94022

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